LIBRARY

CHATTERIS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

To the Chairman and Members of
the Chatteris Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

Herewith I submit My Report as Medical Officer of Health for 1938.

Area of Parish	13,719 Acres.
Estimated Population (Mid 1938)	5,085
Number of Inhabited Houses	1,460
Rateable Value	£15,711
Produce of 1d. Rate	£60

Along with its associated industries agriculture is the main industry of the district. There are also Engineering Works.

Employment is to a certain extent seasonal with periods of considerable unemployment, and some permanently unemployed who formerly worked at industries which are no longer carried on in the district.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total	Male	Female	
Live Births	Legitimate	62	29	33	Birth rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Population 12.7
	Illegitimate	3	2	1	
Still Births		5	4	1	Rate per 1,000 (live & still) Births 71.4
Deaths		60	35	25	Deaths registered per 1,000 of Estimated Population 11.7(9.94 corrected)

There were no deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live Births 30.7

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live Births 32.2

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live Births	0
Deaths from Cancer (All Ages)	11
Measles all ages	0
Whooping Cough all ages	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	0

The Chief causes of Death during the year were Cancer 11 Heart Disease 11 Respiratory Disease 9 Circulatory Disease (including Cerebral Haemorrhage) 7

The Death Rate at 11.7 becomes when corrected 9.94 which compares very favourably with that for the County as a whole at 11.6

The Birth Rate at 12.7 per 1,000 is the lowest yet recorded for the district and is much below that of the rest of the County viz. 15.1

It is to be noted the Estimated Population for Mid 1938 is 5,085 which is 8 less than that for the previous year.

With the Birth Rate at the present figure it is estimated that 20 years hence those over 60 will outnumber those under 20 years of age and in 30 years time the population will have diminished by 25% and 60 years hence will be only half of its present number.

The concurrent change in the age character of the community will profoundly affect its industrial capabilities, its social requirement such as housing, its trade and its rateable capacity. Also in a country area with its increasing drift to the town, these changes must develop more rapidly than in the larger and town areas and all the disabilities arising from the altering population will be felt first and must acutely.

Throughout the year the general health of the town was very good and there was complete absence of epidemic disease of serious character.

GENERAL PROVISIONRY HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

I (1) The Public Health Staff consists of a Medical Officer of Health and a Sanitary Inspector both part time.

Their duties are those usually found in connection with an Urban District of 5,000 population.

(2) A district nurse is provided by the Local Nursing Association.

(3) A Midwife is provided by the County as the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority.

(4) School nurses are provided by the County Education Committee.

II Ambulance facilities are provided by a Local Ambulance. For Infectious cases needing removal an ambulance is kept at the Ely Infectious Hospital. Further facilities exist in the Cambridge Borough Police Ambulances and those of the Red Cross Stationed at Cambridge and March.

There is no special arrangement for Home Nursing other than the visiting District Nurse.

Clinics comprise an Infant Welfare Clinic and is held weekly under the organisation of the County Medical Authority.

General Hospital Provision is furnished by Addenbrooke's Hospital Cambridge and Peterborough Memorial Hospital. Both are connected with the town by an organised voluntary arrangement and give perfectly adequate service.

In addition to the Infectious Disease Hospital at Ely, accomodation is available for certain cases of Infectious Disease at the Cambridge Borough Infectious Disease Hospital.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER.

This is derived and supplied under arrangement with the Wisbech Water Company from their springs at Marham. The supply is a Constant Supply and at a head of 50 feet at the Parish Boundary.

For many years past during the summer months there has been a failure to maintain the pressure as agreed, giving rise to an extremely insanitary state of things.

However, at the end of the year the Company's system was considerably improved, with the result that since then the supply has been once more in accordance with the terms of the Contract.

The quality of the water is very good and the source is more than equal to any demands on it.

The two reservoirs have a joint capacity of 147,500 gallons, the equivalent of two days' supply to the Town.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The opening of the Cromwell School and the development of the Wenny Building Estate have necessitated the construction of additional sewers to serve the area. Otherwise the sewerage system has functioned satisfactorily and no alterations have been required.

3. (1) CLOSET ACCOMODATION is almost entirely on the Water Carriage System.

In view of the annual water shortage the conversion of the few remaining privies has been suspended but with the reliable water supply the conversion will be proceeded with.

(11) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This has been extended to meet the requirements of the recently built up areas and is carried out by the Council Works Department.

(111) CAMPING SITES.

No applications have been made for this purpose.

(1V) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The Sanitary Inspector's report states that general inspections of properties within the Area and in connection with Housing are made frequently, nuisances complained of, and others located are reported to the persons owning the properties and to the occupiers .

In many cases the defects or nuisances are promptly attended to and abated. inspections are followed up by further visits and usually it is found that improvements have been affected.

Inspections during the year number 347.

The sanitary condition of the District is reasonably good.

Nuisances reported are in many instances of foul and offensive drains, untidy yards, sinks and refuse lying about etc.

The greater number of these faults are the direct negligence of the occupiers themselves and should not be allowed to develop, those complaints which prove to be caused by defective drains are promptly notified to the owners for attention.

The Shop Acts in this Urban District are administered by the County Council. Any defects noted are generally brought to the notice of the District Council for attention. There is no need for action with reference to any prevalence of smoke in this Area.

The Public Sewers are in good order and street gulleys are flushed as the need arises.

The collection of house refuse is carried out in a satisfactory manner on 5 days in each week.

Slaughter Houses are inspected and the regulations under the Meat Acts are attended to.

Workshops are periodically visited and notes taken of the conditions under which the Business is carried on.

What factories there are in the district are periodically visited.

Inspections of cowsheds and dairies, bakehouses etc. are made and defects noted.

Informal notices are issued in various cases the greater number are promptly attended to. Monthly reports are made to the Urban Council.

It has not been necessary to serve any statutory notices during the period.

Notices of cases of infectious disease have been very few during the year. Those that have been notified are followed up by the disinfection of the premises in a satisfactory manner.

Inspection of houses under the Housing Acts and Public Health Act is carried out, defects are noted and repairs carried out.

Many houses have been demolished during the year.

The Council have erected a further 22 houses during the year on their Wenny Estate. These houses are all now occupied.

SWIMMING POOLS.

There are none in this area.

PROLIFERATION OF BED BUGS.

This matter has been dealt with when required by the householder with the assistance of the Sanitary Department.

SCHOOLS.

All schools in this area have a piped water supply and water closets.

No action has been necessary in connection with epidemic disease in the area.

HOUSING.

During the year the Wenny Estate providing ~~30~~ 22 houses was completed and steps were taken to put in hand a further ~~27~~ 30 which have since been completed. Along with the new building older and unfit cottages are demolished as soon as their inmates can be transferred elsewhere.

Hereunder are given particulars of various Inspections and the actions taken thereon.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year.

(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Housing Acts.)	28
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	46
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.	20
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	36
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	18
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	12

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :-

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners. Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners. Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 8

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners. Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. 8

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. 26

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936 Part IV Overcrowding.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year. 14

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein. 14

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 87

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year. Nil.

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. 6

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 45

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. Nil

(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report. Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Administration of Food and Drugs (adulteration) etc. is undertaken by the County Council.

All the Slaughter Houses have been inspected and no action has been necessary in connection with them.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	305	-	2	520	840
Number inspected	187	-	-	380	430
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole Carcases condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-

NUTRITION.

No special steps are taken to deal with this subject except in the schools.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

		Admitted at Hospital.	Deaths.
Notifications were Diphtheria	1	0	0
Pneumonia	1	0	1
Erysipelas	2	0	0

Mumps and Whooping Cough appeared in Epidemic form.

The Whooping Cough was of a mild type and unusually free from bronchial complication.

No cases of Infectious Disease have been of a character necessitating hospital treatment.

Anti-diphtheria serum is provided by the Local Authority. Confidence that the case will not be removed from its home and the consequent readiness of those in charge to report cases leads to cases being dealt with at the earliest possible stage and to preventing spread of the disease.

Up to the present there has been no systematic prophylactic inoculation undertaken in connection with Diphtheria.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action has been required under Section 176 P.H.A. 1936 in this matter.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action has been required under Section 172 P.H.A. 1936 or P.H. (Tuberculosis) Regulation 1925.

Three cases were notified during 1938.

Age Period	New Cases Respiratory		Deaths. Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
15-25	1			
25-35		1		1
35-45	1			
	2	1		1

1 Market Hill,
CHATTERIS.

R.E. Nix
Medical Officer of Health.

OCTOBER, 1939.